IN THE SOCIAL WHIRL

THE GAY SIDE OF LIFE AT THE NA-TIONAL CAPITAL

Functions More Brilliant Than Ever Before-Bills You Don't Hear Much About-Measures That Die Young While In Committee.

[Special Correspondence.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 .- As was predicted in this correspondence some weeks ago, the social season in Washington this winter is unusually gay. The list of brilliant entertainments has so far exceeded that of any winter for a great many years, including balls and dinners, both official and diplomatic. In fact, the whirl has been so swift that some of the lookers on have spoken of it as "the pace that kills." Several of the leading ladies of society have already succumbed to the drafts that have been made upon them by their numerous and trying engagements. Among these are Mrs. Charles Emory Smith, wife of the postmaster general; Mrs. Long, wife of the secretary of the navy, and Miss Wilson, daughter of the secretary of agriculture. Miss Long is also on the list of



MISS ANNE DEPEW PAULDING. those who have collapsed under the strain. But gay society goes right along, taking little heed of those who

fall by the wayside. Among the most interesting entertainments of the winter have been the dinners given at the British embassy. A noteworthy dinner was that given by the Russian embassador to Mr. and Mrs. Cramp of Philadelphia. The probable significance of this function is traceable to the czar's interest in warships, of which the Cramps are noted builders.

The first bachelors' cotillon of the season at Rifles' hall was a grand affair and conformed fully to the reputation that these balls have earned in past seasons. Of course there has been or will be the usual round of functions at the White House and at the homes of members of the cabinet, but even these that have so far taken place have been more brilliant as a rule than formerly.

The decision of Mrs. Dewey to receive her friends at her mother's home, in Farragut square, rather than at her own home proved a keen disappointment to the public, whose interest in the Dewey house is something more than mere curiosity. Yet her explanation has been accepted as satisfactory, and it is understood that the real motive of her determination was her objection to risking the unavoidable draft from the opening and shutting of the front door, directly facing the drawing room. Mrs. Dewey has a delicate throat, and every one appreciates the arrangement, especially as Mrs. Me-Lean's house is far better adapted to the holding of large entertainments. The house is thrown open every Monday for the reception of the friends of Mrs. Dewey and the admiral. She received more than 500 callers at the first of these receptions, many of them from out of town. The Dewey house is proving as great a drawing card for bridal couples as the executive mansion or the echoing gallery of the capitol rotunda.

The home of John R. McLean is one of the attractive substantial residences of the city. It is situated on the corner of Fifteenth and I streets. It was here that the admiral and Mrs. Dewey were entertained at their first dinner after their return from their wedding journey. One of the principal attractions of this house is its immense ball room. The room is famous in the so cial annals of Washington as the scene of some of the most brilliant affairs in the city's recent history, including the annual fancy dress ball of past holiday seasons given in honor of the young son of the house. Susan B. Anthony and other pioneers of the suffrage movement have been entertained upon each occasion of their meeting in comes a law, the army "canteen,"

this city in this room, Mr. McLean's house being one of the few private homes thrown open to this body of wo-

The bachelor senator from New Jer sey, Mr. Kean, who lives in the Fairfield Carpenter house, on Sixteenth street, just off Thomas circle, bids fair to be reckoned as one of the city's popular entertainers this winter. Mr. Kean has with him in Washington this winter his mother and three sisters. and it is understood that the eldest of the latter, Miss Sue, will preside at the elaborate affairs given in the senator's home.

Of course Senator Depew will entertain elaborately at his home at the Corcoran house, his niece, Miss Anne Depew Paulding, presiding. Residents are wondering what sort of provision the senator is going to make for pedestrian callers. Since the alterations made by the late Senator Brice there appears to be no way of gaining an entrance except through the porte cochere, and Mr. Depew's friends say that one runs the risk of being trampled to death under the horses' feet. In this connection an amusing story is recalled. One morning, shortly after the alterations ordered by Mr. Brice had been effected and the original front doorway had been bricked up, a certain high official, desirous of a personal interview with Senator Brice, cut across Lafayette park from the war department and made a line for the front steps, only to find himself confronted by a dilemma. To all appearances there was no possible mode of ingress, and after a hasty investigation all around the distinguished visitor gave it up in despair.

A few days later the two gentlemen met at a dinner party, when during an informal chat the question of a change of entrance to the Corcoran house was brought up. The official related his morning's experience, and, after a hearty laugh over the situation, Senator Brice tersely explained that in making the change he had taken it for granted that his friends would come in a carriage and not on foot.

Many interesting subjects of proposed legislation are overlooked because of the overshadowing importance of currency, canal, trust and ship subsidy bills in congress. The majority of these bills, of which the public never hears, do not get beyond the pigeonholes of the committee rooms, though it is not at all unlikely that many of legislation is needed. All, however, are not of this class. Among some of the interesting matters that have been embodied in bills presented before this congress are the following:

A measure has been presented by Representative Lloyd of Missouri for the purpose of preventing the practicing of hazing at the West Point and Annapolis academies. Mr. Lloyd proposes this amendment to the oath which the cadets are to take, "And that I will abstain from the practice of hazing in any form while at the academy."

It has long been a matter of regret that reckless and greedy hunters were allowed to destroy the great herds of American bison, or buffalo, that once ranged upon our western plains. Representative Lacey of Iowa takes this matter much to heart, and he has submitted a measure in which he proposes to set apart a preserve of thousands of acres in New Mexico and to authorize the secretary of the interior to lease the same to Charles J. Jones of Topeka free of rent. In this preserve Mr. Jones is to place 100 full blooded American bison, which, with their increase, are to be protected by law. Many will deem this a laudable measure and one that ought to pass, but it is doubtful if

it ever gets out of committee. Representative Quarles of Virginia thinks that in these days, when the praises of the flag are being sung so loudly, it would not be a bad idea to legislate against its use for advertising purposes. He has introduced a measure prohibiting the use of the flag as an advertisement of any kind for the purpose of gain or profit or as a trademark or label. The measure also makes the same restrictions as regards the coat of arms of the United States.

Up to a certain point Representative



CORNER OF BALLROOM IN RESIDENCE OF JOHN R. M'LEAN.

scheme which was the basis for the organization of the "Coxey army." Mr. Graham has introduced a measure in which he proposes an appropriation of \$5,000,000 for the building of public roads, the proceeds to be applied in each state in proportion to the mileage

If the bill introduced by Representative Spalding of North Dakota ever bewhich aroused so much discussion during the Spanish war, must go. The bill provides that no person shall sell or give away spirituous, vinous or mait liquors in any encampment or port of premises used for military purposes by the United States. This bill has the support of the Woman's Christian Temperance union, and it was at the earnest solicitation of prominent members of that organization that Representative Spalding introduced it, but, like those previously mentioned, it will probably die in committee.

True to his Populistic record and associations, Senator Allen of Nebraska has come to the front with a bill embodying one of the cardinal principles of his party's platform. Mr. Allen has introduced a bill for the establishment of a postal sayings department in eyery postoffice of the country whose annual receipts exceed \$500. In support of his measure the senator says he means throughout the United States a chance to save some money without the risks involved in putting it into ordinary banks. This proposition is not new to congress, for it has been introduced and discussed in several of the engresses during the past dozen years. SAMUEL HUBBARD.

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Judge Joseph B. Wall, of the sixth judicial circuit, commenced a special term of circuit court in Key West the first of this week, Monday, 29th ultimo. It is a year since a term of circuit court was held there, and naturally business has accumulated. Strange to say, however, there is not a case on the criminal docket of any nature.

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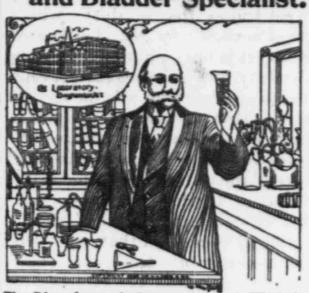
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